(b) NON-OFFICIAL BILLS

(1) The Cochin Christian Succession Act (Amendment) Bill

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Sir, under S. O. 36, I beg to present the Select Committee Report on the Cochin Christian Succession Act (Amendment) Bill. I do not propose to move for the further consideration of the Bill during this session.

(2) The Cochin Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (Amendment) Bill

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)*: Sir, I move that the Cochin Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (Amendment) Bill be read in Council.

Mr. M. L. Joseph *(Latin-Christians-Cranganur)*: I second it.

***Mr. K. R. Viswambharan** *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)*: Sir, as is stated in the objects and reasons appended to this Amendment Bill this is a Bill which is sought to benefit the arecanut cultivators of Cochin State. Arecanut is one of the most important agricultural products of Cochin and in Talappalli, Trichur and Mukundapuram Taluks a vast majority of the agriculturists, I may say so, are cultivating areca palms. Recently, there has been a fall in the price of the areca and that is due to some varieties of adulterated stuff dumped in the market by some unscrupulous traders.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: On a point of order has the word "areca" been included in the term "Food".

Mr. President: In the Madras Act "chewing" is included in the definition.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)*: Due to the fact that some unscrupulous merchants dump our market with curious articles, the arecanut cultivators are very seriously affected, and this Bill remedies such practices in the arecanut market. As the Hon'ble President remarked, the Madras Food Adulteration Act has been amended so as to include arecanut within the definition of "Food". So in the interest of the cultivators of Cochin State I commend this Bill for the acceptance of this House.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: I support the motion. This has been a menace to the arecanut industry. Tapioca, sweet potatoe and other articles are freely used to manufacture a sort of false areca. This is mainly imported into Cochin from the Ponnani Taluk in British Malabar District. There they cannot adulterate and sell this variety because there is the Madras Act, with the result the markets at Ottupara and Trichur have been found to be suitable places where this curious material could be dumped as good chewing material with the result that many of the merchants who come from the Tamil Districts are not very enthusiastic to have transaction in the local market because of the bad variety of arecanut they get. Unless this Act is amended as suggested by the Hon'ble Member for Talappalli Ezhuvas, the industry will suffer very greatly with the result the agriculturists will get only very low price for the commodity. Sir, I, therefore, support the motion for introduction of this Bill.

***Mr. C. R. Iyyunni** *(Trichur-South)*: Sir, I wish to state that it is not proper that arecanut should be brought under the category of "food" in the first place. The food, it is stated by expert medical man, is intended for two purposes. One for the purpose of repairing and building up of the tissues in the body. In the second place it is intended to generate heat in the system so that the engine must work.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)*: I do not want everybody should eat arecanut hereafter. That is not the purpose of the Bill.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: Now when we put that argument and bring that under the definition of "food" it itself becomes food. When we say that arecanut should be brought under the term "food" and the purpose for which food is intended, arecanut does not serve any purpose. I think there would be absolutely no difficulty for persons who bring arecanuts in any manufactured form, for they sell the article under the name of arecanut. I can understand the charge of cheating. On the other hand, this adulterated arecanut in any manufactured form, when brought and sold, what are they going to do with the real material? They cannot find a market. If it is sold, it will come under the Food Adulteration Act. The real difficulty is this. Suppose they are making some kind of material out of either *madhura kizhangu* and such other things and they want to find a market for it. What can they do? Can they sell it in that form. If it is sold he will be infrinching against the law. What are they to do? As the law stands at present there is no difficulty. The whole point turns upon the question whether this is food. If it comes under the term "food", certainly it is all right. But it should not come under the term "food." They say that it is not arecanut but it is something

*Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble member.

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